STAR WARS

THE FORCE UNLEASHED

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After the seeming final defeat of the Sith, the Republic enters a state of complacency. In the waning years of the Republic, the Senate rife with corruption, the ambitious Senator Palpatine causes himself to be elected Supreme Chancellor. This is the era of the prequel trilogy:

The events in this story take place approximately two years before the Battle of Yavin.

STAR WARS THE FORCE UNLEASHED

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STAR WARS: THE FORCE UNLEASHED

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Published by
Dark Horse Books
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222

darkhorse.com
starwars.com

To find a comics shop in your area, call the Comic Shop Locator Service toll-free at
1-888-266-4226

First edition: August 2008

ISBN 978-1-59307-891-1

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in China

INTRODUCTION

I used to think that true terror was the slow-motion seconds before a car crash, or the breath-stealing instant when you realize you're falling off of a ladder, or even the gut-wrenching discovery of squealing rats in the attic. But, for me, those moments pale compared to the beautiful morning in spring of 2005 when–surrounded by the idyllic scenery of Skywalker Ranch–I found myself standing in front of George Lucas, attempting to relate a key concept behind a new *Star Wars* video game being developed at LucasArts. Here I was, little more than a mere fan of the *Star Wars* mythos, describing to the father of all things *Star Wars* our vision for the Force as a primal energy that would be portrayed in-game as "over the top," "amped up," and even "out of control." Describing, in essence, "the Force *unleashed*."

For months, the development team at LucasArts had been working on the basic concepts for what would become *The Force Unleashed*–now considered the next chapter in the *Star Wars* Saga. We had generated dozens of pieces of concept art, several animation tests, and hundreds of pages of design documentation to support our ideas. We had even begun the difficult process of developing and integrating cutting-edge technologies that would allow us to deliver on our vision of "the Force unleashed." Even early on, we strongly believed that using the Force in new and dramatic ways would provide a compelling gameplay experience, but I also knew that if George Lucas disagreed with this "reimagining" of the Force, our team would be scrambling to find a new direction.

So, back to being completely terrified . . . Fortunately, during my presentation to Lucas, I did not need to rely on words alone. The team had created a short "previsualization" video that captured the essence of "the Force unleashed" through a series of brief animations depicting an anonymous Force wielder violently pushing, repelling, and throwing stormtroopers around–doing the kinds of things you'll see in the pages of this graphic novel. We showed this video to Lucas (twice, if I recall correctly), after which he looked up and said: "That's perfect for a game. Go make *that*."

But a *Star Wars* experience–and certainly one attempting to become the next *chapter* in the *Star Wars* saga–is not simply about action or even the Force. We also needed a strong central character, and a captivating story. Over the next two hours, I walked Lucas through our proposed storyline–a tale of Darth Vader's secret apprentice, who begins on a quest to kill the last of the Jedi but ultimately ends up battling "dark Jedi" in an attempt to save Princess Leia and redeem himself for his past actions. And that's when the trouble really began . . .

I knew walking into the meeting that Lucas might balk at some of our story ideas, but ironically, the "big ideas" about which I was most worried didn't cause much debate. Lucas approved our desire to cast the player in the role of Darth Vader's secret apprentice. He even spent a great deal of time describing how Vader would motivate his apprentice (through fear and a promise of overthrowing the Emperor together). He approved the story's setting between Episodes III and IV, a time period that had previously been largely off limits, and offered us great insight into the political events of that era. Even ideas that we ultimately felt were too outlandish and would eventually drop from the story–such as the notion that the apprentice might commune with the spirit of Qui-Gon Jinn or Mace Windu–weren't rejected.

However, Lucas did have three major concerns about the story that would dramatically alter our plot. First, he was not comfortable with Princess Leia being protected by the Apprentice. Second, he felt that the Emperor–who never made an appearance in our original draft–needed to have a much larger presence in the game. And third (and perhaps most important), he was adamant that we needed to populate our story with *new* characters who fulfilled familiar *Star Wars* archetypes in new ways, characters who would later become a Jedi mentor who transforms from a militant general to a blind drunk, yet still manages to teach the Apprentice something about the Force; a comic sidekick who is as dangerous as he is naïve, and proves that even Darth Vader's apprentice can feel friendship and loyalty; and a love interest who is just as conflicted as the Apprentice, but ultimately inspires him to become a hero.

Lucas's direction at this meeting (and many others) allowed us to take a mediocre story and shape it into the next chapter of the *Star Wars* saga. And I've now had the double good fortune of being able to adapt that story into this graphic novel, allowing the events to unfold from the points of view of some of our original characters.

The *Star Wars* universe is George Lucas's toybox, but I'll always be grateful that he took the time to share his toys with us, and to tell us how to squeeze the most fun and excitement out of each and every one. And hopefully, we've been able to add a few new toys to that box that others can play with too.

Haden Blackman
January 2008

CORELLIA, TWO YEARS BEFORE THE BATTLE OF YAVIN.
WATCH YOUR STEP, SENATOR. HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE...

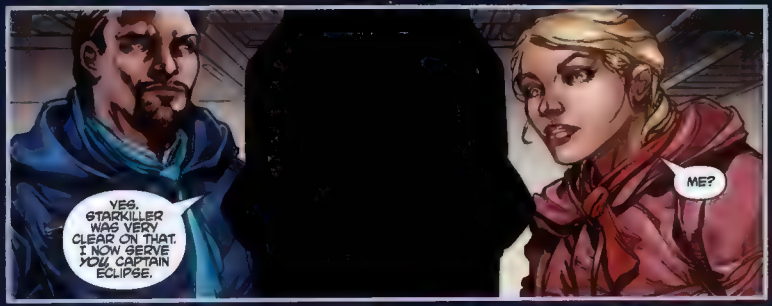
THE STORM IS SCRAMBLING THE SCANNER.
YOU CAN SHUT IT DOWN. I'VE FOUND HIM.
OH... LOOK WHAT'S BEEN DONE TO YOU...
HE'S BEEN OUT HERE TOO LONG...
HE'LL BE FINE. LET'S JUST GET HIM INSIDE, SENATOR.
CAPTAIN ECLIPSE, PLEASE...

...JUST CALL ME BAIL.
CAN YOU REACTIVATE HIM?
I THINK SO. HAND ME THE BACKUP POWER SUPPLY.
IF HIS MEMORY MODULE IS DAMAGED, THEN THIS WILL HAVE BEEN A WASTED TRIP, AND A RISKY ONE, AT THAT.
NO. EVEN IF HE CAN'T REMEMBER HIS OWN NAME --
-- THIS WAS NOT A WASTED TRIP. HE WAS STARKILLER'S FRIEND, AND HE DOESN'T DESERVE TO BE BURIED HERE.
WHERE -:BZT:- IS HE?
PROXY!
-:BZT:- WHERE IS STARKILLER?

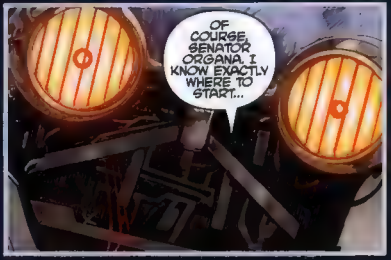
PROXY... HE'S GONE.
THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE... I SAVED HIM FROM LORD VADER... DIDN'T I?

YES, YOU DID, FOR A TIME, ANYWAY.

I TOLD YOU HE'D BE FINE. HE WAS DESIGNED TO TAKE A LIGHTSABER THROUGH THE CHEST...
PROXY, DO YOU HAVE STANDING REASSIGNMENT ORDERS?


YES. STARKILLER WAS VERY CLEAR ON THAT. I NOW SERVE YOU, CAPTAIN ECLIPSE.
ME?

PROXY, WE'RE CREATING A RECORD OF THE BIRTH OF THE REBEL ALLIANCE, AND IT STARTS WITH YOUR FORMER MASTER.
TELL US EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT HIS MISSION, AND HOW HE FOUND HIMSELF HERE WHEN VADER ATTACKED...


OF COURSE, SENATOR ORGANA. I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE TO START...

PROXY recording 91608

The historical records will claim that the Rebel Alliance was born on Corellia. That *is* a documented fact. But the *truth* is this:

The Rebel Alliance was born somewhere in the Scarl system...

...aboard *Darth Vader's* personal starship, the *Executor.*

And I was there.
I am Imperial training droid Prototype Ten--
-- designated PROXY.
YOU WERE WEAK WHEN I FOUND YOU.
I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO SURVIVE YOUR TRAINING.
OH, NO...
BUT NOW, YOUR HATRED HAS BECOME YOUR STRENGTH. AT LAST, THE DARK SIDE IS YOUR ALLY.
RISE, MY APPRENTICE.

WHAT IS YOUR WILL, MY MASTER?
IT IS TIME TO FACE YOUR FIRST TRUE TEST.
YOUR SPIES HAVE LOCATED A JEDI?
YES, MASTER RAHM KOTA. HE IS ATTACKING A CRITICAL IMPERIAL SHIPYARD. YOU WILL KILL HIM, AND BRING ME HIS LIGHTSABER.
THE EMPEROR MUST NOT DISCOVER YOU. LEAVE NO WITNESSES. KILL EVERYONE ABOARD, IMPERIALS AND KOTA'S MEN ALIKE.
I... AS YOU WISH...
...MY MASTER.

Serving the boy -- *my* Master -- was my secondary programming...
But I had not yet escaped my *primary* programming.
INITIATING TRAINING MODULE J-3...
WHO --?

HAS IT BEEN SO LONG, YOU DON'T RECOGNIZE ME? I'M HURT.
GENERAL KENOBI.
YOU SHOULD HAVE STAYED IN HIDING.
I DEFEATED YOU BEFORE. I CAN DO IT AGAIN.
I'VE LEARNED A FEW NEW TRICKS SINCE OUR LAST DUEL.
KRAK!
SO HAVE I.

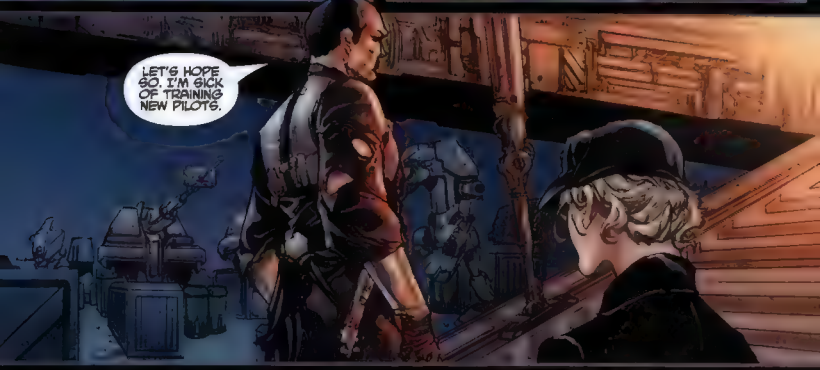
YEAAARRGH!!
YOU CAUGHT ME BY SURPRISE, PROXY.
I HAVEN'T FOUGHT THAT TRAINING PROGRAM IN YEARS. I THOUGHT YOU'D ERASED IT.
I HOPED THAT USING AN OLDER TRAINING MODULE WOULD CATCH YOU OFF GUARD AND ALLOW ME TO FINALLY KILL YOU. I'M SORRY I FAILED YOU AGAIN.

I'M SURE YOU'LL KEEP TRYING.
OF COURSE, MASTER. IT IS MY PRIMARY PROGRAMMING.
Darth Vader provided me with my prime directive -- routinely try to *kill* the boy. It was his concept of "*training*."
WELL, YOU WON'T BE AMBUSHING ME AGAIN ANY TIME --
PROXY, WHO IS THAT?
AH, YES, YOUR NEW PILOT HAS FINALLY ARRIVED, MASTER.
ACCESSING IMPERIAL RECORDS...

CAPTAIN JUNO ECLIPSE. BORN ON CORULAG, WHERE SHE BECAME THE YOUNGEST STUDENT EVER ACCEPTED INTO THE IMPERIAL ACADEMY. DECORATED COMBAT PILOT WITH OVER ONE HUNDRED COMBAT MISSIONS, AND COMMANDING OFFICER DURING THE BOMBING OF CALLOS.
HANDPICKED BY LORD VADER TO LEAD HIS BLACK FIVE SQUADRON, BUT LATER REASSIGNED TO A TOP-SECRET PROJECT --
IS THERE A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILE IN THERE TOO?
ACTUALLY, YES --
--AND IT'S RESTRICTED. BUT MASTER, I CAN TELL YOU SHE'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO REPROGRAM.

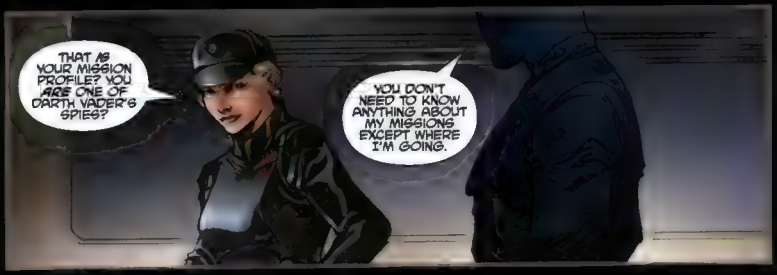
DO YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE?
MY ORDERS ARE CLEAR. I AM TO KEEP YOUR SHIP RUNNING AND FLY YOU WHEREVER YOUR MISSIONS REQUIRE.

DID VADER TELL YOU THAT HE KILLED OUR LAST PILOTS?
NO. BUT I CAN ONLY ASSUME THAT HE GAVE LORD VADER GOOD CAUSE TO DO SO. I WILL NOT.


LET'S HOPE SO. I'M SICK OF TRAINING NEW PILOTS.

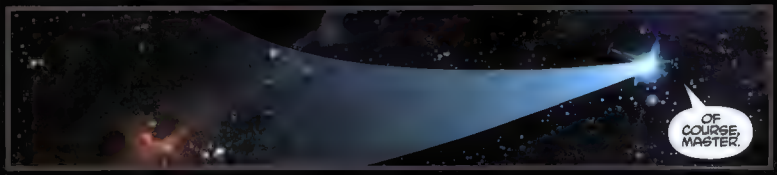
WHAT IS THIS?!? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MY SHIP?

I'VE TAKEN THE LIBERTY OF UPGRADING THE *ROGUE SHADOW*'S SENSOR ARRAY.
NOW YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SPY ON ANY SUSPECT SHIPS ACROSS AN ENTIRE SYSTEM.


THAT IS YOUR MISSION PROFILE? YOU ARE ONE OF DARTH VADER'S SPIES?
YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT MY MISSIONS EXCEPT WHERE I'M GOING.

NOW, WE NEED A JUMP TO NAR SHADDAA. CAN YOU HANDLE THAT?
OF COURSE.

I did not realize it then, but the moment they met, Juno became my Master's first recruit.
PREPARE FOR LAUNCH.
PROXY, GIVE ME THE TARGET.


OF COURSE, MASTER.

As we made our way through hyperspace toward the shipyards above Nar Shaddaa, I told my Master what the Empire knew of the Jedi *Rahm Kota*...
...*my* records recall Kota as a blind drunk. But according to Imperial records, he was a respected general in the Clone Wars.
HOLD YOUR GROUND! DON'T LET THEM TAKE THE COMMAND CENTER!
A military genius...
STANG...
KER-KRASH!
...his one flaw -- he felt that clone soldiers were not fit for battle.

Instead, he relied on his own militia.
LOCK DOWN THE COMMAND CENTER AND GET THAT HOLOGRAM PROJECTOR UP AND RUNNING.
TELL ALL SQUADS TO FAN OUT AND FUNNEL ANY OPPOSITION TOWARD US.
It saved his life: there were no clones in his squad when Order 66 was issued...
EXPLOSIVE CHARGES ON LEVELS TWO, FIVE, AND TEN, JUST LIKE WE PLANNED.
...and after he learned that the Jedi Order had been destroyed, Kota vanished.
Official Imperial records actually claimed he was dead.
Clearly, the records were wrong...
GENERAL KOTA, HE'S HERE!
I'VE FINALLY DRAWN YOU OUT OF HIDING...
LOWER THE CONTAINMENT FIELD ON HANGAR TWELVE, AND TELL THE MEN TO GET INTO POSITION.
WE'RE IN FOR A FIGHT.

A JEDI GENERAL?!
YOU'RE HUNTING JEDI?
I BRING DARTH VADER'S ENEMIES TO JUSTICE. AND NOW, SO DO YOU.
UNDERSTOOD.
BUT WHY WOULD KOTA COME OUT OF HIDING AND ATTACK THE EMPIRE NOW?
HE WANTS TO BE FOUND.
THEN WE ARE WALKING INTO A TRAP.
HOW MANY PILOTS HAVE YOU LOST BEFORE ME?
SEVEN.
SHIELDS HAVE DROPPED ON HANGAR TWELVE.
TAKE US IN.

SNAP!
SKREEEE
CAPTAIN ECLIPSE, BACK OUT OF THE HANGAR AND KEEP ME ON YOUR SCANNERS.
I MIGHT NEED A QUICK EXTRACTION.

My Master tore through that shipyard...
...using everything Vader had taught him --
-- and some maneuvers he invented himself.
And as Vader commanded, he left no witnesses.
And eventually, he reached Master Kota...

A BOY?
MONTHS OF ATTACKING IMPERIAL TARGETS, AND VADER SENDS A BOY TO FIGHT ME?
YOU'RE A WASTE OF MY TIME.

OH, NO...
THE DAMAGE TO THE FACILITY WAS --
"-- MORE EXTENSIVE THAN MY INITIAL SCANS SUGGESTED. THE COMMAND CENTER IS HEADED FOR RE-ENTRY."
YOU'VE NEVER FOUGHT A REAL JEDI, HAVE YOU, BOY? YOU'RE NOT PREPARED FOR THIS.
Kota was correct. My Master had never fought a Jedi.
POOR EFFORT, BOY.
He had never fought anyone so... so...
KRACK!
But the General had never fought anyone like my Master.

...devious.
AAAAAAAAAGH!
VADER THINKS HE'S TURNED YOU...
VADER WON'T ALWAYS BE YOUR MASTER ...I SENSE ONLY...
BUT I CAN SENSE YOUR FUTURE...
ME?
There are no records of Kota's last words.
But we do know that he was soundly defeated.

AIIIGGH!
UNGH...
KRICK...
...KRACK!
WHUMP!
As my Master watched the general disappear...
...he knew that the Jedi had survived...

Just as he knew their paths would cross again.
MASTER KOTA IS DEAD?
YES.
HIS LIGHTSABER.

YOU HAVE DONE WELL. I DID NOT EXPECT YOU TO SURVIVE.
NOW, THERE IS BUT ONE MORE TEST BEFORE YOU FACE YOUR DESTINY.
THE EMPEROR.
YES. ONLY TOGETHER CAN WE DEFEAT HIM.
I AM READY NOW. I'VE --
YOU HAVE DONE NOTHING! YOU HAVE DEFEATED AN OLD MAN, A RECLUSE!
YOU MUST FACE A TRUE JEDI MASTER -- A MEMBER OF THE JEDI COUNCIL -- BEFORE YOUR TRAINING WILL BE COMPLETE.
A COUNCIL MEMBER? WHO?

My Master's next mission was to kill *Shaak Ti*.
A hero from the Clone Wars...
...one of the Order's most cunning warriors, who had disappeared, vanished.
But we would find her...
...on the fungus world Felucia.
ASSASSINS.

DARTH VADER HAS FOUND US?
PERHAPS, MARIS. GATHER YOUR BELONGINGS AND GO INTO HIDING, AS WE'VE PRACTICED. DO NOT RETURN UNTIL I SUMMON YOU.
BUT MASTER, THIS IS WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TRAINING ME FOR! LET ME FIGHT!
MARIS, WE ARE AMONG THE LAST OF THE JEDI. WHILE WE LIVE, THE ORDER SURVIVES. I CANNOT ALLOW YOU TO BE CAPTURED OR KILLED BY THE EMPIRE.
NOW PLEASE, GO TO THE GRAVEYARD AND WAIT FOR MY SUMMONS.
GRRRAAAAHH ROWRRR...
NO. SHE HASN'T BEEN CORRUPTED. NOT YET. SHE'S JUST AFRAID.
MAY THE FORCE BE WITH YOU, MARIS BROOD.

LIFE SIGNS ARE OVERWHELMING THE SCANNERS... THE PLANET MUST BE COMPLETELY OVERGROWN.
SOMETHING ELSE IS BOTHERING YOU...
HOW--
YOU CAN'T HIDE YOUR FEELINGS FROM ME, NO MATTER HOW DEEPLY YOU BURY THEM.
THIS PLACE... IT REMINDS ME OF CALLOS.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU WERE PART OF THE IMPERIAL INVASION THERE.
NO--

"-- I LED THE IMPERIAL FORCES AT THE BATTLE OF CALLOS.
"CALLOS WAS LIKE FELUCIA. OVERGROWN, TEEMING WITH LIFE. AND WE RAZED THE PLANET. IT'S A DEAD WORLD NOW."
I READ THE REPORTS.
YOU FOLLOWED YOUR ORDERS TO THE END.
YES...
WHERE DO YOU WANT ME TO LAND?
NEAR THE EQUATOR. THERE.

My Master later told me that the whole of Felucia was like a single living thing.
The planet was strong in the Force...
...but it was chaotic, wild...
...sliding toward the dark side.
All of Felucia's inhabitants were susceptible. All were on the verge...

...of becoming monsters!

Fortunately, my Master had some experience battling monsters.
KRRRASSH!

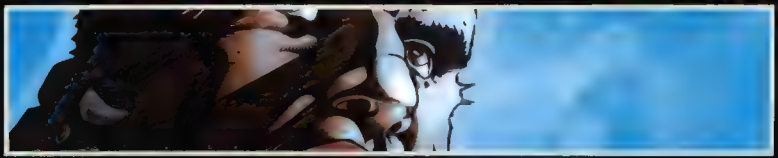
The dark side was strong on Felucia...
...and Shaak Ti was a *beacon* in that darkness.
VADER'S ASSASSIN. WELCOME TO THE *ANCIENT ABYSS*, A PLACE OF SACRIFICE FOR THE FELUCIANS, SINCE TIME IMMEMORIAL.
ARE YOU PREPARED TO MEET *YOUR* FATE?

YOU HAVE THE STENCH OF THE COWARD VADER ABOUT YOU.
MY MASTER IS AFRAID OF NOTHING.

WERE THAT TRUE, HE WOULD NEVER HAVE FALLEN TO THE DARK SIDE.

I KNEW HIM WHEN HE WAS JUST A FRIGHTENED BOY.

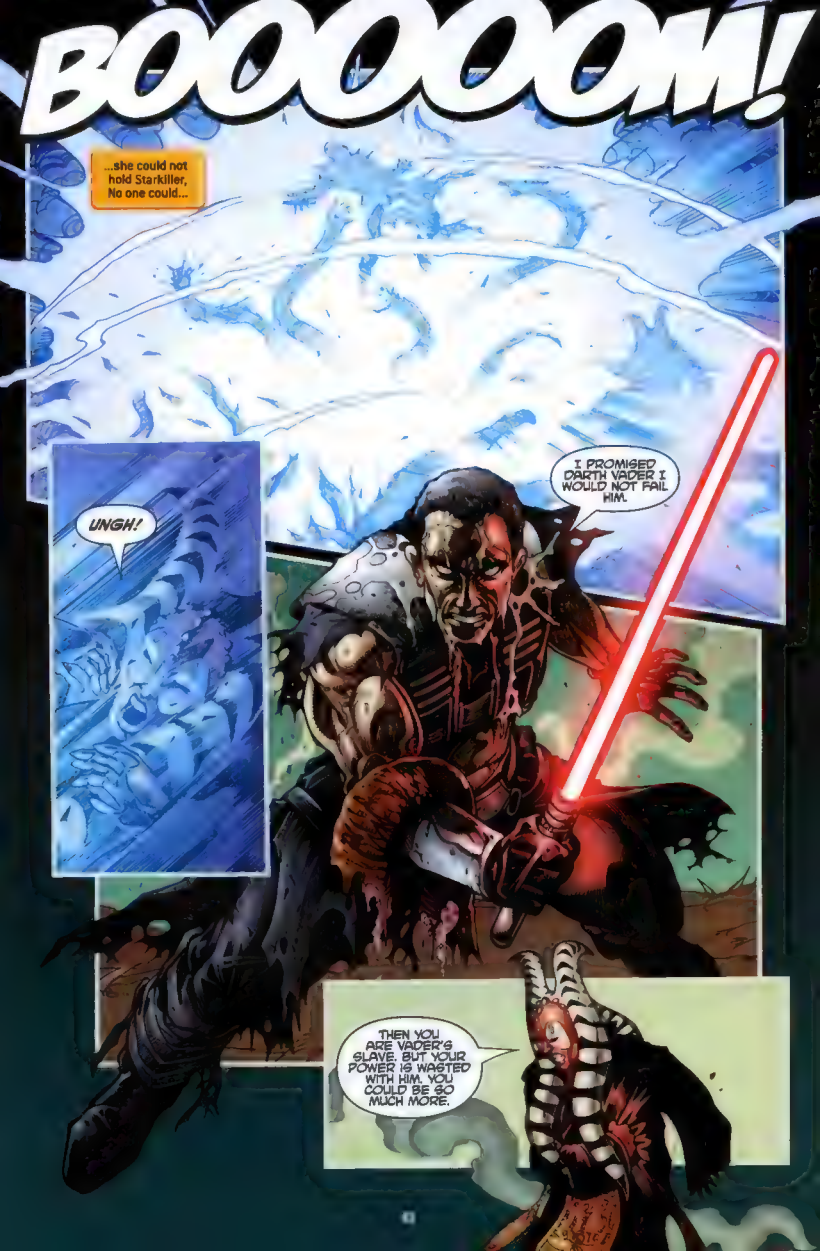
NOT UNLIKE YOU.



BOOM!!
AAAGH!
YOU ARE OUTMATCHED. AND VADER KNOWS THIS. HE SENT YOU HERE TO BE DEFEATED.
VADER SENT YOU HERE TO DIE. BUT LAY DOWN YOUR WEAPON, AND I WILL SPARE YOU.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM AT ALL. IF YOU MANAGE TO KILL ME, THEN I NEVER DESERVED TO STAND AT LORD VADER'S SIDE ANYWAY.

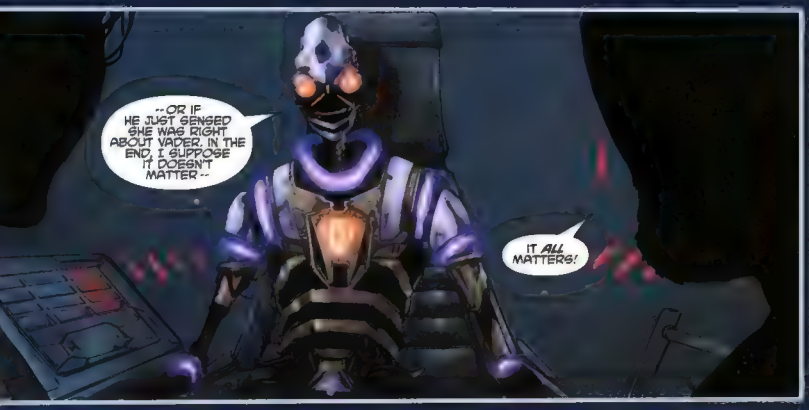
THEN THIS IS TRULY WHERE YOUR JOURNEY ENDS.
NO!
I WILL NOT FAIL!

Shaak Ti's command over Felucia was impressive.
She communed with its native species...
NOOO!!
I CAN SENSE HIM FADING. IT'S ALMOST...
...commanded its flora and fauna to attack.
But even with an entire planet at her command...
WHA--?
RRRRRUUMBBBB

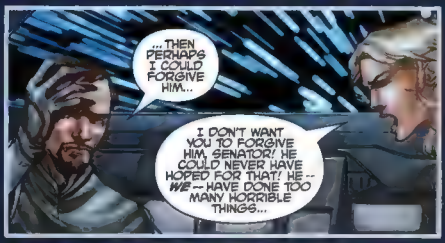

BOOOOOM!
...she could not hold Starkiller, No one could...
UNGH!
I PROMISED DARTH VADER I WOULD NOT FAIL HIM.
THEN YOU ARE VADER'S SLAVE. BUT YOUR POWER IS WASTED WITH HIM. YOU COULD BE SO MUCH MORE.

Starkiller later told me that he didn't know why he reached out for Shaak Ti.

Whether he wanted to make sure she was truly dead --


--OR IF HE JUST SENSED SHE WAS RIGHT ABOUT VADER. IN THE END, I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T MATTER--
IT *ALL* MATTERS!

EVERYTHING HE THOUGHT -- EVERYTHING HE FELT -- *MATTERS*. HE ALLOWED SHAAK TI TO DIE, AND AS A RESULT AN ENTIRE PLANET WAS NEARLY LOST TO THE DARK SIDE. AND I WAS ALMOST KILLED...
IF HE HAD JUST ONE MOMENT OF HESITATION, ONE MOMENT WHERE HE TRIED TO STOP HER FROM FALLING...


...THEN PERHAPS I COULD FORGIVE HIM...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO FORGIVE HIM, SENATOR! HE COULD NEVER HAVE HOPED FOR THAT! HE -- *WE* -- HAVE DONE TOO MANY HORRIBLE THINGS...

I JUST WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW HE SUFFERED FOR SERVING VADER, SO THAT PERHAPS YOU'D *UNDERSTAND*...

ALL RIGHT, I'LL TRY. PROXY, CONTINUE.

Vader was pleased with Starkiller's mission to Felucia. With Shaak Ti's death, it appeared that my Master would at least achieve *his* primary programming -- to stand at Vader's side against the Emperor.

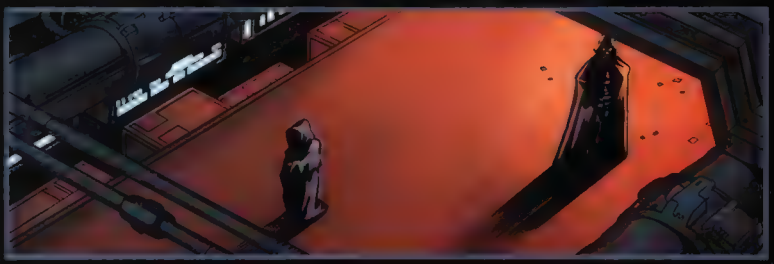
AAAAAAAAGH!

WHAT IS THY BIDDING, MY MASTER?
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN YOUR PLACE, LORD VADER. BY TAKING THIS BOY AS YOUR APPRENTICE, YOU HAVE BETRAYED ME.
NOW, YOU WILL KILL HIM, OR I WILL DESTROY YOU BOTH.
MASTER... WE CAN DEFEAT HIM... TOGETHER...
DO IT, LORD VADER! PROVE YOUR LOYALTY TO ME!

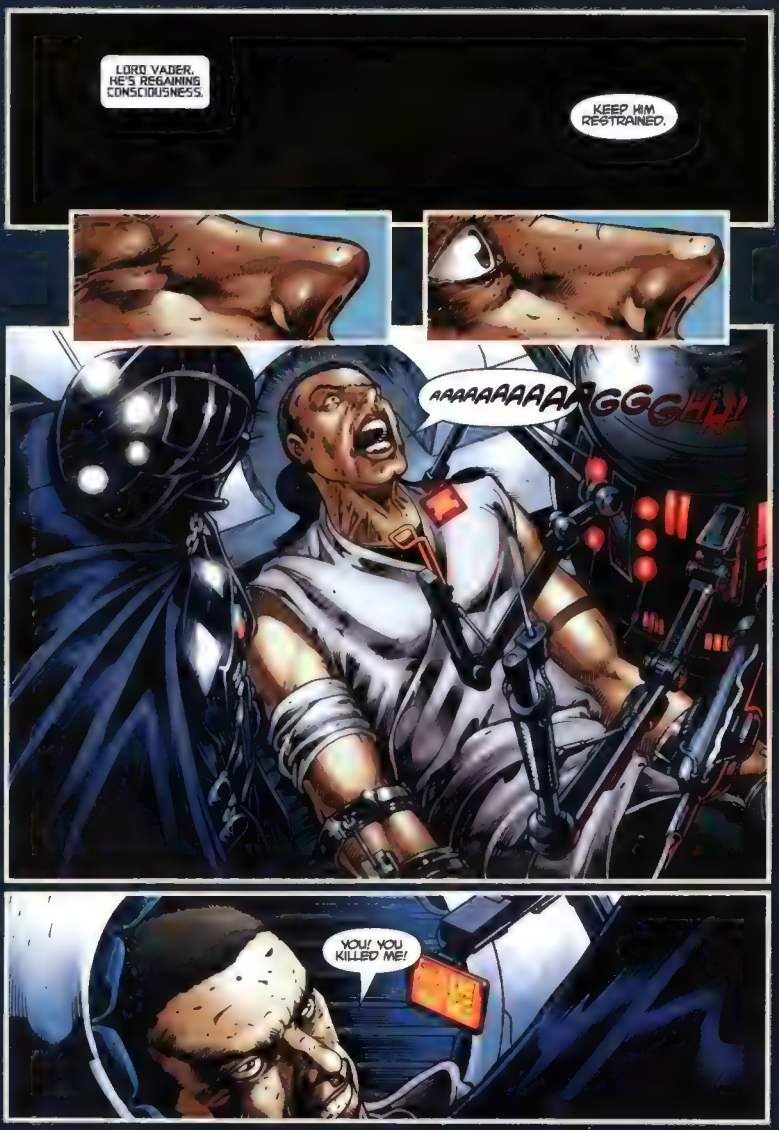
AAAGH!
KRACK!
YES, LORD VADER! KILL HIM!

FSSSSSH

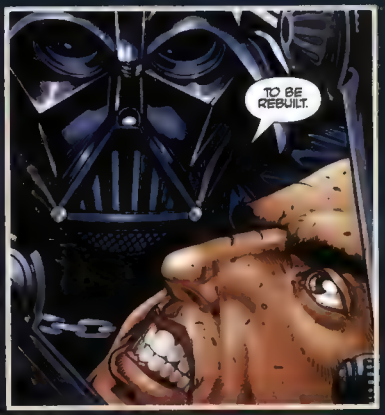
IT IS DONE.
THUNK



It could have ended there...
...with Starkiller critically wounded...
...put through an ordeal no one should have survived.
But, his Master had other plans.
It was six standard months before I spoke to him again.


LORD VADER, HE'S REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS.
KEEP HIM RESTRAINED.
AAAAAAAAAAGGGHH!
YOU! YOU KILLED ME!

NO! THE EMPEROR WANTED YOU DEAD. I SALVAGED YOUR BODY AND BROUGHT YOU HERE...

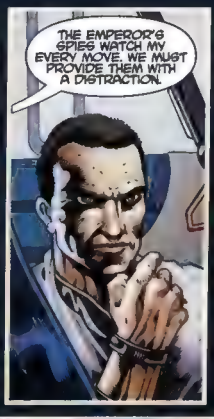

TO BE REBUILT.

WHY?

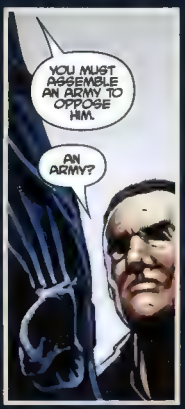
ONCE HE DISCOVERED YOU, THE EMPEROR WOULD NEVER HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO LIVE. BUT NOW THAT HE BELIEVES YOU ARE DEAD, YOU ARE EVEN MORE DANGEROUS TO HIM. YOU CAN HAVE REVENGE...

...AND FULFILL YOUR DESTINY.

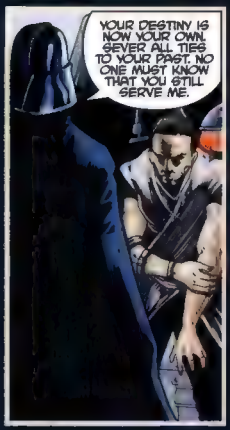
WHAT IS YOUR BIDDING... MY MASTER.


THE EMPEROR'S SPIES WATCH MY EVERY MOVE. WE MUST PROVIDE THEM WITH A DISTRACTION.

WHAT SORT OF DISTRACTION? AN ASSASSINATION?
NO SINGLE ACT WILL GAIN THE EMPEROR'S NOTICE.


YOU MUST ASSEMBLE AN ARMY TO OPPOSE HIM.
AN ARMY?

YES. AN ALLIANCE OF REBELS AND DISSIDENTS.
WHEN THESE REBELS HAVE DISTRACTED THE EMPEROR AND HIS SPIES, WE WILL STRIKE.
WHERE SHOULD I START?

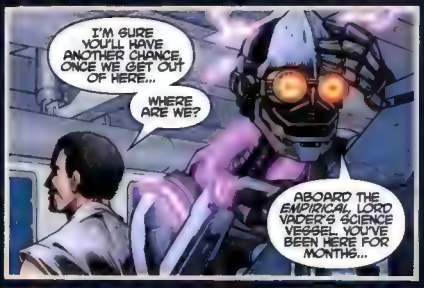

YOUR DESTINY IS NOW YOUR OWN. SEVER ALL TIES TO YOUR PAST. NO ONE MUST KNOW THAT YOU STILL SERVE ME.

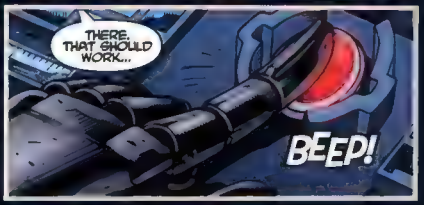
NOW GO.

AND REMEMBER THAT THE DARK SIDE IS ALWAYS WITH YOU.

PROXY?!
MASTER...

...I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU FULLY FUNCTIONAL AGAIN.
I WAS AFRAID THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FULFILL MY PRIMARY PROGRAMMING TO KILL YOU MYSELF.

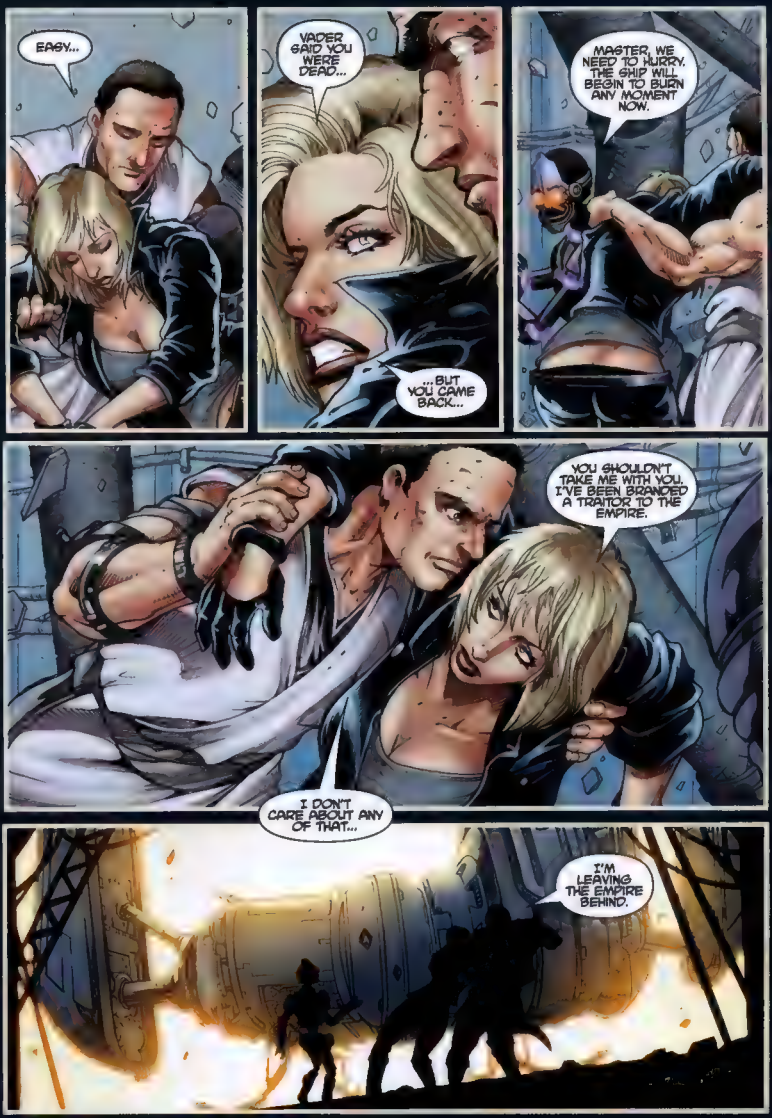

I'M SURE YOU'LL HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE, ONCE WE GET OUT OF HERE...
WHERE ARE WE?
ABOARD THE EMPIRICAL, LORD VADER'S SCIENCE VESSEL. YOU'VE BEEN HERE FOR MONTHS...


THERE. THAT SHOULD WORK...
BEEP!

AAAA-ROOOO!
AAAA-RO
UH, PROXY --?
LORD VADER LEFT ME WITH CLEAR ORDERS TO DESTROY ANY EVIDENCE OF YOUR TIME HERE, INCLUDING EVERYONE ABOARD THE VESSEL.

SO I'VE SET THE SHIP ON A COLLISION COURSE WITH A NEARBY SUN.
WE NEED TO HURRY. THE ROGUE SHADOW IS THIS WAY.

We made our way through the ship, meeting only minimal resistance. But our escape plan was soon compromised...
THE LIFT IS THROUGH HERE, MASTER.
NO...
JUNO!
PROXY! DEACTIVATE THAT THING!


EASY...
VADER SAID YOU WERE DEAD...
...BUT YOU CAME BACK...
MASTER, WE NEED TO HURRY. THE SHIP WILL BEGIN TO BURN ANY MOMENT NOW.
YOU SHOULDN'T TAKE ME WITH YOU. I'VE BEEN BRANDED A TRAITOR TO THE EMPIRE.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT...
I'M LEAVING THE EMPIRE BEHIND.

NO SIGN OF ANY PURSUIT. WE'LL SOON BE LIGHT YEARS AWAY FROM ANY IMPERIAL FORCES.
THEN WHAT'S WRONG?
WE HAVE THE ENTIRE GALAXY IN FRONT OF US, AND YET, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO GO...
I HOPE YOU HAVE A PLAN.

WE NEED TO RALLY THE EMPEROR'S ENEMIES.
AND I NEED TO FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN TEACH ME THINGS ABOUT THE FORCE THAT VADER COULDN'T...
SOUNDS LIKE WE ARE STILL HUNTING JEDI.
AND I KNOW ONE WHO MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE.
GO AHEAD, PROXY.
GENERAL KOTA?
YES. WHEN I FOUGHT HIM, HE SAID HE WOULD BE PART OF MY FUTURE. LET'S HOPE HE WAS RIGHT.
IF HE SURVIVED YOUR ENCOUNTER, HE'S LIKELY GONE TO GROUND. WHERE DO YOU WANT TO START LOOKING FOR HIM?
WHERE I LEFT HIM FOR DEAD... HEAD TO NAR SHADDAA.
We headed toward the Smuggler's Moon, but really, we had no idea how we were going to locate the General...

THAT'S ONE THING I WANTED TO KNOW...
SMUGGLED KOTA OFF NAR SHADDAA, AND WAS EXTREMELY CAREFUL TO COVER OUR TRACKS.
HOW DID YOU LOCATE HIM?

IT WASN'T EASY, BUT A DRUNKEN JEDI ATTRACTS ATTENTION, EVEN ON THE SMUGGLER'S MOON. THERE, WE LEARNED THAT KOTA HAD SURVIVED.
STARKILLER WAS VERY GOOD AT PERSUADING INFORMANTS.

YOU MEAN THREATENING INFORMANTS.
CALL IT WHATEVER YOU WANT, BUT THE INFORMATION HE DREDGED UP WAS ENOUGH TO KEEP US GOING.

WE SPENT THE NEXT SIX STANDARD MONTHS CROSSING THE GALAXY--
--FOLLOWING RUMORS AND EXAGGERATED JEDI SIGHTINGS. ALL WHILE DODGING IMPERIAL PATROLS.
ULTIMATELY, IT WAS STARKILLER'S INSTINCTS THAT LED HIM TO KOTA.

WHEN WE INTERCEPTED AN IMPERIAL TRANSMISSION REVEALING THAT THE EMPIRE HAD SENT ONE OF ITS MOST DANGEROUS AGENTS TO CLOUD CITY...

...Starkiller *knew* that they were after Kota.
And that we would need to get to him first.
My Master's only concern was whether or not Kota would recognize him.
But I doubt Kota could even recognize himself.
GENERAL KOTA?
I'VE PAID FOR THIS TABLE. GO WHOEVER YOU ARE, GET LOST.
GENERAL, I'VE TRACKED YOU ACROSS THE GALAXY, FROM NAR SHADDAA TO ZIOST.
I THINK WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER... JEDI.
I'M NO JEDI NOW. NOT SINCE *THIS*...

I DON'T NEED YOUR EYES, JUST YOUR MIND --
-- AND EVERYTHING YOU KNOW ABOUT FIGHTING THE EMPIRE.
NOBODY FIGHTS THE EMPIRE AND WINS, BOY.
YOU'D BETTER HOPE YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT THAT, GENERAL.
This was my Master's first real fight against the Empire. He had killed stormtroopers before, but only because they were potential witnesses.
But on Cloud City, the Empire finally became his enemy...
WHO --?
...and we would soon learn just how dangerous that enemy could be.

THIS WAS A VERY BAD IDEA, PROXY. HE'S BEEN GONE TOO LONG.
KOTA MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED HIM.
NO... WAIT, HERE HE COMES.
OOOF!
The Emperor's *Shadow Guard.*

The Emperor's mute servants. Ruthless Force-wielding warriors.
Some say that they are Jedi Knights, captured and tortured by the Emperor, their minds so broken they can't even talk.
But not even Darth Vader knows who they really are.
But my Master had been well-trained. Vader had taught him to use the environment to his advantage...
...to distract...
...and ambush...

It turns out, carbonite gas makes an excellent weapon.

YOURS IS A FOOL'S ERRAND, BOY. YOU MAY HAVE STOPPED THIS ATTACK, BUT THE EMPEROR'S ARMY IS INFINITE.

YOU'LL EVENTUALLY BE KILLED...OR WORSE. AND NOTHING WILL HAVE CHANGED.

WOULDN'T YOU RATHER DIE FIGHTING THAN DROWN IN SOME CANTINA?

I DON'T KNOW.

BUT I DO HAVE A CONTACT IN THE SENATE WHO CAN USE YOUR LIGHTSABER.

WHERE'S YOUR SHIP?

We arrived on *Kashyyyk* a few days later.
Senator Organa, you already know that Kota brought us to the Wookiee homeworld...
...to find your daughter, though Starkiller would not discover that right away.

But there is part of the mission that you haven't heard yet...

KOTA... I... I THINK I FOUND SOMETHING.

WHAT?

JUST AN OLD HUT... BUT IT FEELS FAMILIAR. I FEEL GREAT DARKNESS HERE. AND SADNESS.

TURN AWAY. GET ON WITH YOUR MISSION.

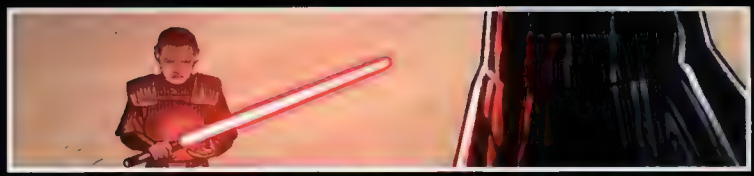
THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU AREN'T READY TO FACE.

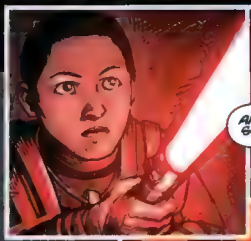
WHAT'S INSIDE?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? MY LINK TO THE FORCE HAS BEEN CUT.

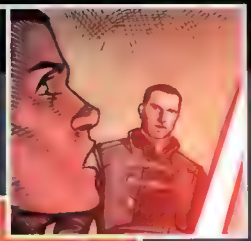
BUT IF YOU GO INSIDE, YOU'LL FACE WHATEVER'S IN THERE ALONE.

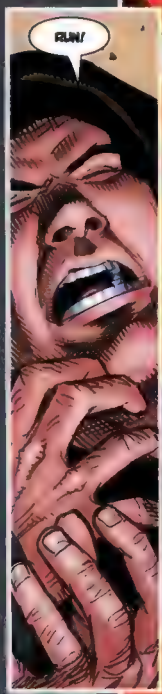
IS ANYONE HERE?
DARK LORD -- WHATEVER YOU WANT, YOU WON'T FIND IT HERE. TURN BACK.
YOU CAN'T DISGUISE YOURSELF FROM ME... JEDI.
I SENSE SOMEONE FAR MORE POWERFUL NEARBY. WHERE IS YOUR MASTER?
THE DARK SIDE HAS CLOUDED YOUR MIND. YOU KILLED MY MASTER YEARS AGO.
THEN NOW YOU WILL SHARE HIS FATE.
WHA --



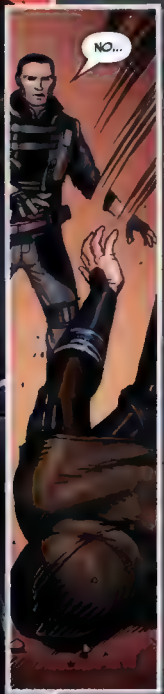


AH, A SON.

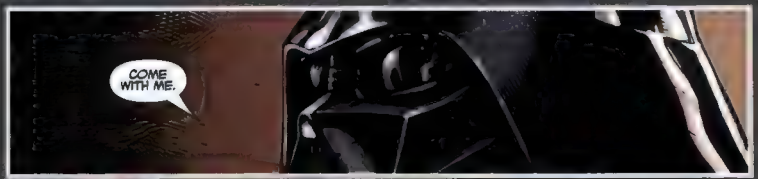



RUN!

CRACK!


NO...

LORD VADER?
OPEN FIRE!


COME WITH ME.

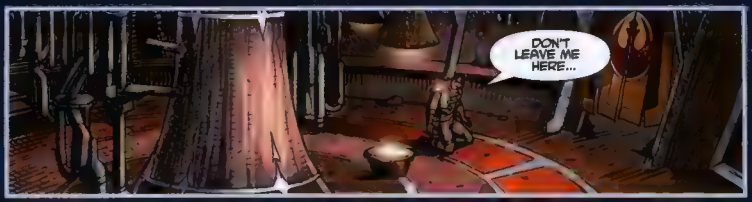
MORE WILL BE HERE SOON.

STOP!

I NEVER WANTED THIS FOR YOU.

I NEVER WANTED ANY OF THIS FOR YOU... I'M SORRY, SON.
FATHER?

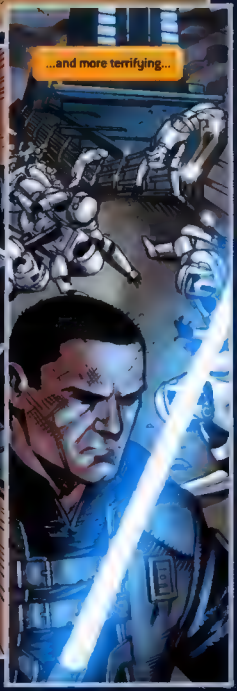
FATHER! WAIT!


DON'T LEAVE ME HERE...

I TOLD YOU TO LEAVE IT ALONE, BOY.

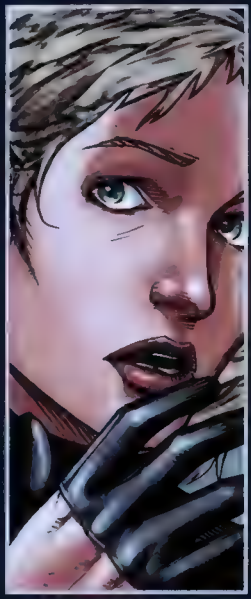
When my Master left the hut, I don't think he was *Starkiller* any longer...

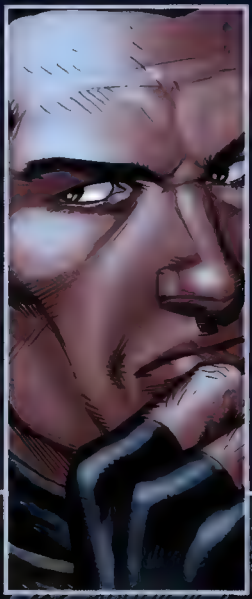
He had become something much more *powerful*...


...and more terrifying...

I'm not surprised your daughter thought he was there to kill her.
I SHOULD HAVE EXPECTED THE EMPEROR TO SEND AN ASSASSIN. IT'S A COWARD'S TACTIC.
I DO NOT SERVE THE EMPEROR.
I'M HERE WITH MASTER KOTA.
MASTER KOTA IS DEAD. KILLED ABOVE NAR SHADDAA.
MY FATHER--
YOUR FATHER?
HE'S KOTA'S CONTACT... HOW LONG HAS HE BEEN FEEDING KOTA INFORMATION ABOUT IMPERIAL TARGETS?
HOW DO YOU KNOW--?
BECAUSE MASTER KOTA SURVIVED, AND HE WAS SENT TO FIND YOU.
NOW, LET'S GO.
Starkiller saw your daughter safely to your ship. But he was still quite angry...

YOU SENT ME DOWN THERE TO RESCUE A GIRL?
OF COURSE.
WHO WAS SHE?
PRINCESS LEIA ORGANA. HER FATHER IS BAIL ORGANA, MY CONTACT IN THE SENATE.
I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.
YOU CAN'T.
I JUST RESCUED HIS DAUGHTER FROM--
YOU CAN'T TALK TO HIM BECAUSE I CAN'T FIND HIM. HE'S GONE MISSING, BOY!
WHAT? WHEN?
BAIL TRIED TO RECRUIT ME TO RESCUE LEIA.
WHEN I REFUSED, HE WENT IN SEARCH OF ANOTHER JEDI... MASTER SHAAK TI.
I WARNED HIM IT WOULD BE TOO DANGEROUS, BUT THE FOOL WENT AFTER HER ANYWAY, ALONE... AND VANISHED AS SOON AS HE LANDED ON --
FELUCIA...





THE FORCE IS STRONG IN YOU...
...TO BE ABLE TO SENSE MY THOUGHTS.

YOU'RE JUST EASY TO READ, OLD MAN.
THEN YOU SHOULD ALREADY KNOW OUR NEXT MISSION: WE'RE GOING TO FELUCIA...

"TO RESCUE SENATOR ORGANA."

EAT UP, SENATOR...
THUD!

MARIS...

WHY ARE YOU KEEPING ME HERE? YOUR MASTER WOULD BE DISGUSTED WITH YOU...
YOU'RE SOMETHING TO TRADE IF DARTH VADER FINDS ME. NOW SHUT UP AND EAT.

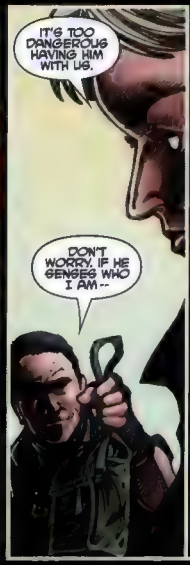
AND IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT ESCAPING, JUST REMEMBER THAT MY NEW PET IS VERY HUNGRY...

LOOKS LIKE ORGANA MADE IT THIS FAR.
WHERE WILL YOU START LOOKING FOR HIM?

WHERE I FIRST CONFRONTED SHAAK TI.
IF BAIL WAS SEARCHING FOR THE JEDI MASTER, THEN HE MIGHT STILL BE NEARBY.

I DIDN'T THINK WE'D BE BACK... DOESN'T IT DISTURB YOU TO RETURN HERE?

NO.
IF I LET IT AFFECT ME, IF I THINK ABOUT MY PAST EVEN FOR AN INSTANT, MASTER KOTA WILL SENSE IT...


IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HAVING HIM WITH US.
DON'T WORRY. IF HE SENSES WHO I AM --

-- I WON'T GIVE HIM THE CHANCE TO TELL ANYONE.

THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF...

It didn't take Starkiller long to find you, Senator Organa. Maris Brood's use of the dark side drew the Apprentice to the rancor graveyard like a black hole.

RAAAAAAWWWR!

But he found far more than he expected...

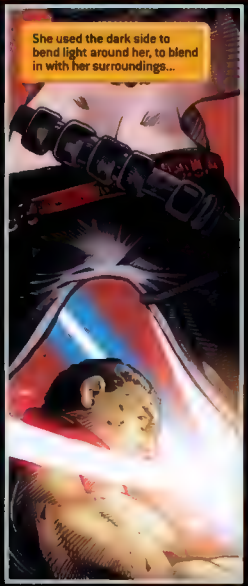
THIS SHOULD EVEN THE ODDS.

DON'T!

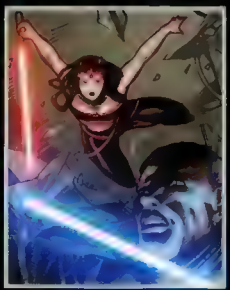
GLIK

NO!
The rancor was no longer a threat...

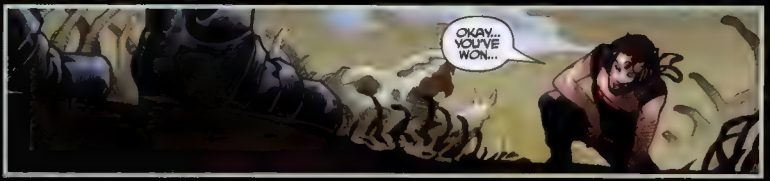
...but Maris Brood had learned many tricks from the Feluciens.
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM ME, GIRL.


She used the dark side to bend light around her, to blend in with her surroundings...

...to disappear



AAAAGH!


OKAY... YOU'VE WON...

THE SENATOR IS YOURS. THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL ME NOW.
YOU'RE A SLAVE TO THE DARK SIDE. I'D BE DOING THE GALAXY A FAVOR.

IT'S NOT MY FAULT. SHAAK TI ABANDONED ME TO THIS PLACE. THIS PLANET IS EVIL. IT CORRUPTED ME. BUT YOU...
...YOU CAN SAVE ME. JUST LET ME GET AWAY FROM HERE...

...AND I'LL TURN MY BACK ON THE DARK SIDE FOREVER.

THAT ONE... SHE REMINDS ME TOO MUCH OF ANOTHER YOUNG JEDI WHO TURNED TO THE DARK SIDE. YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE LET HER GO FREE.

YOU REALLY THINK SHE'S FREE? SHE'LL CARRY THE MEMORIES OF WHAT SHE'S DONE HERE FOREVER...

You were the key, Senator Organa. Starkiller knew that once we had you on our side, others would follow...

But he also knew that recruiting you wouldn't be easy
WE'RE NOT PREPARED TO GO TO WAR YET. WE NEED WEAPONS AND STARSHIPS, AND PEOPLE WITH THE COURAGE TO USE THEM. MASTER KOTA, I KNOW I OWE YOU MY LIFE, BUT...
YOU DON'T OWE ME ANYTHING. I TOLD YOU ON CLOUD CITY THAT I CAN'T HELP YOU. NOT SINCE I LOST MY SIGHT...
HE'S YOUR HERO, AND IT'S HIS REBELLION. JOIN US BECAUSE HE'S ASKING YOU TO.
THERE ARE OTHER SENATORS WHO HAVE SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE EMPEROR, BUT IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO CONVINCE THEM TO STAND WITH US...
WE JUST NEED TO SHOW THEM THE EMPIRE IS VULNERABLE.
LET ME MEDITATE ON THAT. I'M SURE I'LL FIND THE RIGHT TARGET.
SENATOR, MAKE CONTACT WITH YOUR FRIENDS. WE'RE GOING TO NEED ALL THE HELP WE CAN GET.

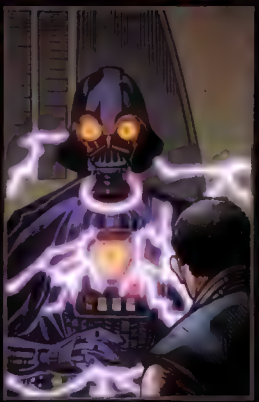
Starkiller told you he would "meditate" to find his next target. That wasn't exactly true...
YOUR MISSION GOES WELL, MY APPRENTICE.
I HAVE RECRUITED OTHERS TO MY CAUSE. BUT, NOW I NEED YOUR COUNSEL--

--MY ALLIES SEEK A MAJOR STRIKE AGAINST THE EMPIRE...
THE EMPEROR RULES THE GALAXY THROUGH FEAR. YOU MUST DESTROY A SYMBOL OF THAT FEAR.

THE EMPIRE IS BUILDING STAR DESTROYERS ABOVE RAXUS PRIME. THAT SHIPYARD IS YOUR NEXT TARGET.

THANK YOU, LORD VADER.
THERE IS MUCH CONFLICT IN YOU.

YOUR FEELINGS FOR YOUR NEW ALLIES ARE GROWING STRONGER. DO NOT FORGET THAT YOU STILL SERVE ME.



UGH. I HATE BEING HIM...
I THINK HE DOES TOO.

JUNO.
I... I CAME TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU WANTED TO GO NEXT--
--BUT, IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN TOLD.
THIS ISN'T WHAT--
OF COURSE IT IS! YOU'RE STILL LOYAL TO VADER. AFTER HE BRANDED ME A TRAITOR AND TRIED TO KILL ME, YOU'RE STILL HIS... HIS...
HIS SLAVE.
THEN WHY DID YOU DEFY VADER TO RESCUE ME?
I...I NEEDED SOMEONE TO FLY THE SHIP.
WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S NOT TRUE! MY BEING HERE HAS NEVER BEEN ABOUT MY PILOTING.
SOMETIME SOON, YOU WILL DECIDE THE FATE OF THE REBELLION, NOT YOUR MASTER.
WHEN YOU ARE FACED WITH THAT MOMENT, REMEMBER THAT I, TOO WAS FORCED TO LEAVE BEHIND EVERYTHING I'VE EVER KNOWN.
PLEASE, DON'T MAKE ME LEAVE ANOTHER LIFE BEHIND.

MASTER?
GET THE SHIP READY--
"-- WE'RE HEADING TO RAXUS PRIME."
JUNO! I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING DOWN HERE!
WE'VE COVERED THIS... THE IMPERIALS ARE USING THAT ORE CANNON TO SHOOT SALVAGE INTO SPACE...
...IF YOU CAN REDIRECT THE CANNON, YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE IT TO DESTROY THE SHIPYARD ITSELF.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO REDIRECT ANYTHING!
LET'S HOPE OVERLOADING IT WILL WORK...
IT WORKED! THE TRAJECTORY IS RIGHT ON TARGET!

Starkiller destroyed the shipyard. But there were... unexpected complications.
GENERAL KOTA -- WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

YOU'LL NEVER GET CLEAR IN TIME. YOU NEED TO BRING THAT SHIP DOWN ON THE CANNON!
YOU'RE INSANE! IT'S MASSIVE!
YOU COULD BE A JEDI, BOY! SIZE MEANS NOTHING TO YOU! REACH OUT WITH THE FORCE AND GRAB THAT SHIP, OR YOU WILL DIE ON THIS TRASH HEAP!
"THIS IS CRAZY, KOTA..."

BY THE FORCE!...

The damage was catastrophic.
My diagnostic computer still can't figure out how the Apprentice survived...
...but I'm just a droid. I don't understand the power of the Force.
And I guess I never understood my Master.

I DON'T KNOW IF *ANY* OF US UNDERSTOOD HIM, REALLY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER NOW. WHAT HE DID ON RAXUS PRIME WORKED.

IT SHOWED THAT THE EMPIRE *IS* VULNERABLE. IT INSPIRED MY ALLIES AND GALVANIZED THE EMPEROR'S ENEMIES. IT BROUGHT US TOGETHER--

"-- ON CORELLIA."

WE AGREE THAT THE TIME FOR DIPLOMACY AND POLITICS HAS PASSED. IT IS TIME FOR *ACTION*. IF YOU'RE WILLING TO LEAD US, THEN WE'LL JOIN YOUR ALLIANCE.

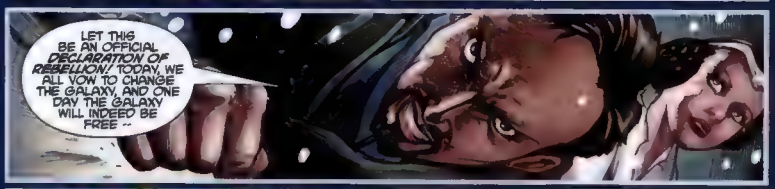
AS WILL I.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE STILL PASSED OUT IN THE CARGO HOLD.
I FINALLY CAME TO.

IT'S SETTLED THEN. MY WEALTH WILL *FUND* THE REBELLION --

-- WHILE GARM BEL IBLIS PROVIDES OUR FLEET, AND MON MOTHMA OUR SOLDIERS.

AND WITH YOU LEADING US, WE HAVE THE POWER OF THE *FORCE* ON OUR SIDE.


LET THIS BE AN OFFICIAL *DECLARATION OF REBELLION!* TODAY, WE ALL VOW TO CHANGE THE GALAXY, AND ONE DAY THE GALAXY WILL INDEED BE FREE --

BOOM!
WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!
NO...

NO!
PROXY! CUT TRANSMISSION!
TAKE THE SENATORS ALIVE. THE EMPEROR WANTS TO EXECUTE THEM PERSONALLY.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?! THIS ALLIANCE WAS YOUR IDEA!

NO. IT WAS MY MASTER'S LIE.

WITHOUT ME, YOU WILL NEVER BE FREE.
PUT DOWN YOUR LIGHTSABER... ANAKIN.

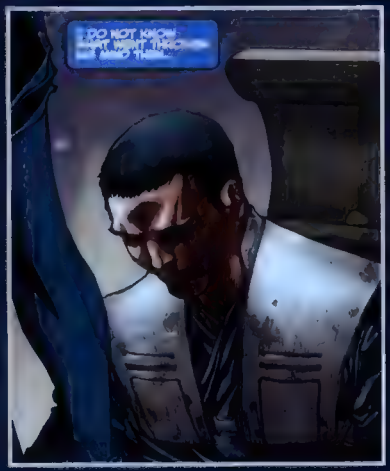
AAAAAGH!
I used my most dangerous training module...
But it clearly was not enough.

AND... THAT'S ALL...
THAT'S ALL I REMEMBER. I'M SORRY.
IT'S ALL RIGHT, PROXY. I BELIEVE I CAN CONTINUE FROM HERE.
AFTER VADER... DISCOMMITTED YOU, HE TURNED BACK TO THE CLIFF...
...STARKILLER WAS GONE.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY WOULD VADER ALLOW US TO ATTACK SO MANY IMPERIAL TARGETS IF HE WASN'T PLANNING TO TURN ON THE EMPEROR?
THEY'RE... THEY'RE GONE...
VADER TOOK THEM ALL... TO THE EMPEROR.
"TO SELL THE DECEPTION."

CREDITS, STARSHIPS, IMPERIAL LIVES -- THEY'RE ALL MEANINGLESS TO VADER. HE JUST NEEDED ME TO FIND THE EMPEROR'S ENEMIES, NO MATTER THE COST.
AND I DID JUST WHAT HE WANTED...

YES, YOU DID.
BUT NOW, THE FATE OF *YOUR* ALLIANCE RESTS ONLY WITH YOU.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

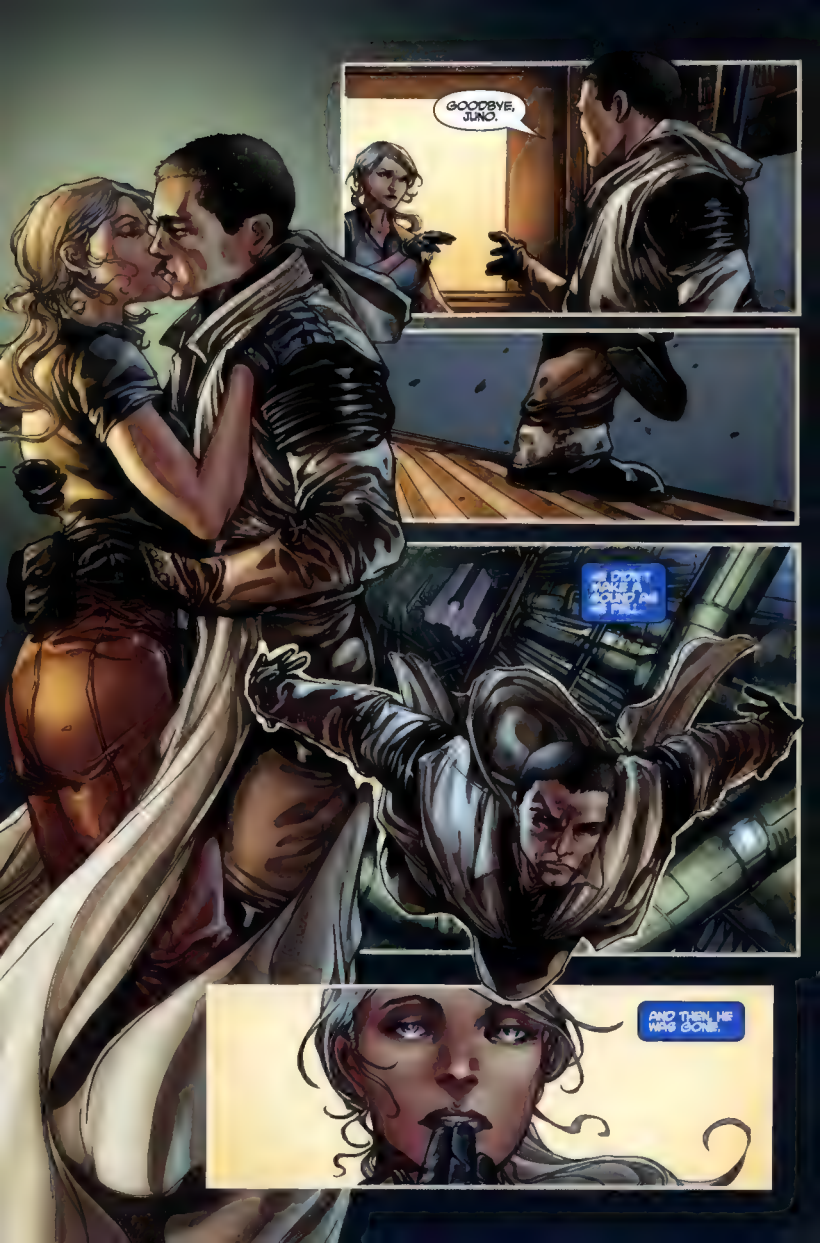

I DO NOT KNOW WHAT MIGHT THE[illegible] WHO THERE...

WE'RE GOING AFTER VADER...
I ASSUMED HE WAS JUST INTENT ON KILLING DARTH VADER. BUT NOW I KNOW HE WAS AFTER SOMETHING MORE.

I HAD NO IDEA HOW WE WOULD FIND VADER AND THE REBELS, BUT MARKULLER HAD A PLAN.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
MEDITATING. JEDI CAN SOMETIMES SEE VISIONS OF THE FUTURE...
HAVE YOU DONE THIS BEFORE?
I'VE NEVER BEEN A JEDI BEFORE...
NO...
NO! KOTA!
WHAT?!? WHAT DID YOU SEE?
A...A MASSIVE SPACE STATION. STILL UNDER CONSTRUCTION.
PLOT A COURSE FOR THE OUTER RIM.

AM, BUT EVENTUALLY
STARKILLER FOUND THE
BACKDRAFT
KEEP THE SHIP CLOAKED AND WAIT BEYOND SCANNER RANGE.

I HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS...
THEN WE MUST BE DOING THE RIGHT THING.
AM I GOING TO SEE YOU AGAIN?
IF I CAN FREE THE REBELS, THEY'LL NEED EXTRACTION...
PROBABLY NOT. NO.
THEN I'LL NEVER NEED TO LIVE THIS DOWN...


GOODBYE, JUNO.
I DIDN'T MAKE A SOUND AS I FELL.
AND THEN, HE WAS GONE.

THERE WAS TOO MUCH INTERFERENCE FOR SECURE COMMUNICATION.
...BUT I COULD USE THE GRID'S SCANNERS TO TRACK HIM.
I KNOW HE SURVIVED THE FALL, BUT AFTER THAT HE FELL OFF THE SCANNERS FOR A TIME...

YOU ARE ALL *TRAITORS* TO THE EMPIRE.
YOU WILL BE INTERROGATED, TORTURED. YOU *WILL* GIVE ME THE NAMES OF YOUR FRIENDS AND ALLIES.
AND THEN, YOU WILL DIE.

OUR DEATHS WILL ONLY RALLY OTHERS--
NO! YOUR VERY PUBLIC AND PAINFUL EXECUTIONS WILL CRUSH *ANY* DISSENT.

ANY HOPE OF *REBELLION* DIES WITH YOU.

THERE MAY BE A REBELLION YET...

STARKILLER
BREACH THE
OBSERVATION DOME...

LORD VADER, DEAL WITH THE BOY.

YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME. YOU ARE ONLY AS STRONG AS I HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO BE, MY APPRENTICE.
I AM NO LONGER YOUR APPRENTICE!
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO TEACH ME!
AAAHGH!
YOU KNOW THIS IS FUTILE. I HAVE NEARLY KILLED YOU TWICE ALREADY...
YOU AMBUSHED ME TWICE.
YOU HAVEN'T BEATEN ME IN A FAIR FIGHT SINCE I WAS A CHILD.

WHA--?!
UNGH!
YOUR HATRED GIVES YOU STRENGTH. YOU ARE AT LAST A MASTER OF THE DARK SIDE.
THIS... THIS WAS YOUR FINAL TEST.
LIAR.

YES! STRIKE DOWN YOUR MASTER!
KILL HIM AND YOU CAN TAKE YOUR RIGHTFUL PLACE AT MY SIDE!
NO!

KOTA...
AAAAGH!
HELP HIM!
...I'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT TARKULLER SAW WHEN HE LOOKED AT VADER...

DARTH VADER WAS NEVER MY MASTER. IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG.
OF COURSE. LORD VADER HAS NEVER PLOTTED ALONE.
AAAAAAAAIIGH!
VADER IS WEAK AND BROKEN. BUT YOU CAN STILL JOIN ME. DO NOT MAKE ME DESTROY YOU.
YOU ORDERED VADER TO KILL MY FATHER.

YOU TOLD HIM TO TAKE ME FROM MY HOME.
NOOOOOO!
UHNG!
YOU FORCED HIM TO RAISE ME IN DARKNESS.

YOU TURNED ME TO THE DARK SIDE.
HAHAHAHA--
HAHAHAAHA!
YES! GIVE IN TO YOUR HATRED!
PROVE THAT I WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU FROM THE BEGINNING!
HE'S BEATEN. LET IT GO...
HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU THINK. AND HE DESERVES TO DIE FOR WHAT HE'S DONE TO ME.
THAT IS PROBABLY TRUE...
BUT, IF YOU KILL HIM NOW, OUT OF HATRED, THEN YOU'LL BE BACK WHERE YOU STARTED. YOU'LL NEVER ESCAPE THE DARK SIDE, AND HE WILL HAVE WON.

GET THE SENATORS TO SAFETY. I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU.
NO!

NNNNGGH!
KOTA, GO!
GET THE SENATORS TO SAFETY!
GO! HURRY!

NO!
GENERAL! WE HAVE TO GO!

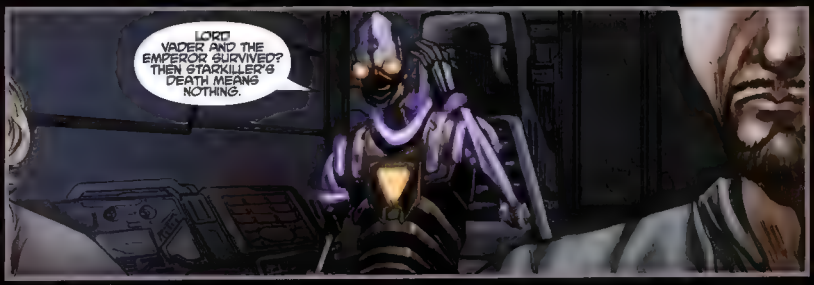
STARKILLER...
WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE'S STARKILLER?
HE'S GONE! GET US OUT OF HERE!
STRAP IN.

UNGH...
HE IS DEAD.

THEN HE IS NOW MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.
HE WAS MEANT TO ROOT OUT THE REBELS... BUT HIS SACRIFICE WILL ONLY INSPIRE THEM.

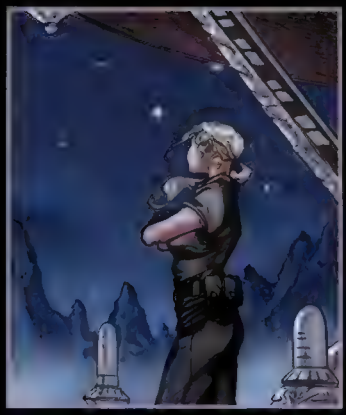
BUT NOW WE KNOW WHO YOUR TRUE ENEMIES ARE. I WILL HUNT THEM DOWN AND DESTROY THEM, AS YOU ALWAYS INTENDED, MASTER.

YOU MUST BE RELENTLESS, LORD VADER. IF EVEN A SINGLE REBEL SURVIVES, THIS ALLIANCE WE HAVE UNWITTINGLY CREATED WILL BE OUR UNDOING...


LORD VADER AND THE EMPEROR SURVIVED? THEN STARKILLER'S DEATH MEANS NOTHING.

IT MEANS *EVERYTHING*, PROXY. JUST ASK *THEM*.

ARE WE READY TO FINISH WHAT HE STARTED?
WE ARE.
WE ARE.
THEN AT LAST, THE REBEL ALLIANCE IS BORN. HERE. TONIGHT.
WE NEED A SYMBOL TO RALLY BEHIND.
A SYMBOL OF HOPE.



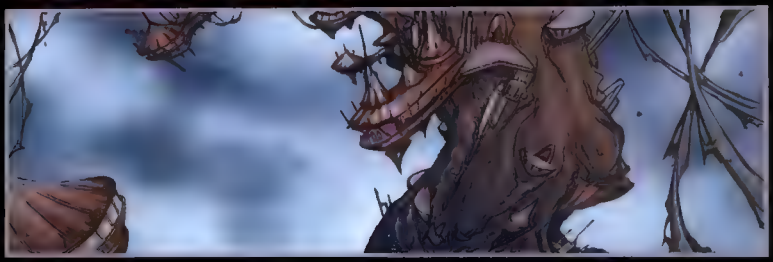
HE'S AT LAST ONE WITH THE FORCE.
YOU ALWAYS KNEW WHO HE WAS, DIDN'T YOU?

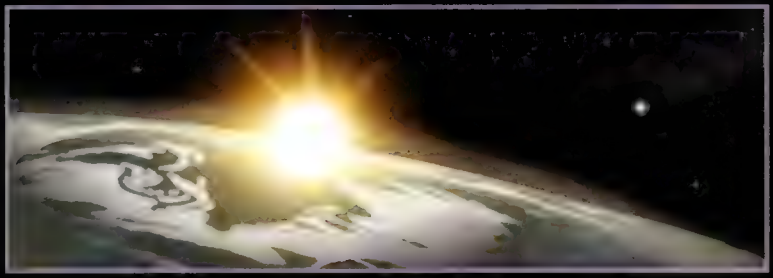
I SUSPECTED, YES.
THEN WHY DID YOU HELP US, AFTER ALL THE THINGS WE HAD DONE?

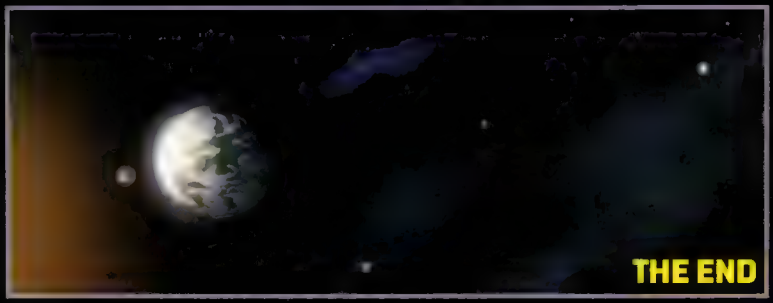
WHEN HE CAME TO ME IN THE CANTINA ON CLOUD CITY, AMONG ALL HIS DARK THOUGHTS, I GLIMPSED ONE BRIGHT SPOT. ONE BEAUTIFUL THING HE HELD ONTO, EVEN AT THE END.

WHAT?

YOU.






THE END

STAR WARS GRAPHIC NOVEL TIMELINE (IN YEARS)

Tales of the Jedi—5,000–3,986 BSW4
Knights of the Old Republic—3,964 BSW4
Jedi vs. Sith—1,000 BSW4
Jedi Council: Acts of War—33 BSW4
Prelude to Rebellion—33 BSW4
Darth Maul—33 BSW4
Episode I: The Phantom Menace—32 BSW4
Outlander—32 BSW4
Emissaries to Malastare—32 BSW4
Jango Fett: Open Seasons—32 BSW4
Twilight—31 BSW4
Bounty Hunters—31 BSW4
The Hunt for Aurra Sing—30 BSW4
Darkness—30 BSW4
The Stark Hyperspace War—30 BSW4
Rite of Passage—28 BSW4
Jango Fett—27 BSW4
Zam Wesell—27 BSW4
Honor and Duty—24 BSW4
Episode II: Attack of the Clones—22 BSW4
Clone Wars—22–19 BSW4
Clone Wars Adventures—22–19 BSW4
General Grievous—20 BSW4
Episode III: Revenge of the Sith—19 BSW4
Dark Times—19 BSW4
Droids—3 BSW4
Boba Fett: Enemy of the Empire—2 BSW4
Underworld—1 BSW4
Episode IV: A New Hope—SW4
Classic Star Wars—0–3 ASW4
A Long Time Ago . . . —0–4 ASW4
Empire—0 ASW4
Rebellion—0 ASW4
Vader's Quest—0 ASW4
Boba Fett: Man with a Mission—0 ASW4
Jabba the Hutt: The Art of the Deal—1 ASW4
Splinter of the Mind's Eye—1 ASW4
Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back—3 ASW4
Shadows of the Empire—3–5 ASW4
Episode VI: Return of the Jedi—4 ASW4
X-Wing Rogue Squadron—4–5 ASW4
Mara Jade: By the Emperor's Hand—4 ASW4
Heir to the Empire—9 ASW4
Dark Force Rising—9 ASW4
The Last Command—9 ASW4
Dark Empire—10 ASW4
Boba Fett: Death, Lies, and Treachery—11 ASW4
Crimson Empire—11 ASW4
Jedi Academy: Leviathan—13 ASW4
Union—20 ASW4
Chewbacca—25 ASW4
Legacy—130 ASW4

Old Republic Era
25,000 – 1000 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope

Rise of the Empire Era
1000 – 0 years before
Star Wars: A New Hope

Rebellion Era
0 – 5 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Republic Era
5 – 25 years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

New Jedi Order Era
25+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Legacy Era
130+ years after
Star Wars: A New Hope

Infinities
Does not apply to timeline

Sergio Aragonés Stomps Star Wars
Star Wars Tales
Star Wars Infinities
Tag and Bink
Star Wars Visionaries

BSW4 = before *Episode IV: A New Hope*. ASW4 = after *Episode IV: A New Hope*.

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